S.C.R. NO. 147

MAR 0 8 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ENCOURAGING THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO REEVALUATE THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the state rental assistance program administered by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation provides qualified rental project owners with monthly rental assistance subsidies to assist eligible tenants to make their rental payments; and

WHEREAS, the shallow, project-based rental assistance program subsidies have been effective in helping moderate income households at or below eighty percent of the area median income to afford their rent payments, while providing sufficient rental income to ensure that the rental project remains economically feasible; and

WHEREAS, over the rental assistance program's lifespan, rental assistance subsidies were provided for 1,437 units in seventeen affordable rental projects statewide; and

WHEREAS, however, as older project contracts have expired, and due to the lack of resources to enter into new project contracts, only ten projects remain in the program, with a total of 1,204 assisted units; and

WHEREAS, certain eligibility requirements related to the rental assistance program should be reevaluated to increase the number of low-income households with access to permanent affordable rental housing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation is encouraged to reevaluate the rental assistance program; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.